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A LESSON FROM SAN FRANCISCO.

Crime has been so rampant in San Francisco lately that the citizens there have felt the necessity of adopting extraordinary measures for its suppression. A mass meeting was called the other day for the purpose of forming a "committee of safety," which is but another name for a "vigilance committee." The moral condition of a community is pretty bad, when the respectable citizens feel justified in taking the law into their own hands.

The so-called refuge camps are, to some extent, responsible for the carnival of crime that has come over the stricken city. In these camps many worthless characters are, undoubtedly, gathered. There thugs can successfully hide, because no one is supposed to know much about, or interfere with, the affairs of his neighbors, as long as they behave themselves in the camp. But this accounts only for part of the evil complained of. If those upon whom it devolves to watch over the safety of the community and to enforce the laws, would do their duty, there would be no need of "vigilance" committees. When laws are flagrantly violated and the officials are in league with gamblers, thieves, and the corrupters of public morals; when crime and immorality stalk in public places unwhipped of justice; when the lives and property of the citizens are in danger, and the people have no assurance of protection in the exercise of their guaranteed rights, they naturally rise in self-defense. But the necessity of the adoption of extraordinary measures is, nevertheless, deplorable. It proves that wicked persons have succeeded in obtaining control.

The situation in San Francisco should be a lesson to other cities. "Safety committees" form no part of American institutions. They are not wanted. They are near kin to lynch mobs. What every community needs is good, loyal officials who are willing and competent to do their duty, for the performance of which they draw their salaries. When they fail to do this, crime runs rampant, the streets become unsafe because infested with the wolves and hyenas of society, and business interests suffer. Good citizens should come together and place men in control who are known to be trustworthy. Their work for purification should be done at the polls. Then there would not be any need of mass meetings to correct by "vigilance committees" the expensive mistakes committed in voting.

INDIANS ADVANCING.

The popular impression that the Indians are dying out is said to be erroneous. Students of the subject have come to the conclusion that the Indians are more numerous now than they were at the time of the discovery of America by Columbus. The Mobile Register has the following paragraphs on this topic:

"The Indians were never populous. They were too much at war. They roamed the prairies and hunted through the forests, but they never had local habitations and were never many in one spot."

"The first actual census of the Indians was taken seventy years ago. At that time there were found to be 253,464. Prior to that time everything had been by guess."

"Beginning with the count of 1330 the official reports of Indian population are as follows: In 1860, at the beginning of the Civil war, there were 244,200. Twenty years later in 1880, there were 263,127. In 1890 there were 272,623. Today, by count of the Indian agents on the reservations of the country, there are 284,000 Indians."

"The Indian is not dying out, and there is no reason why he should. The government has pursued a policy, mistaken in many respects, but yet calculated to give the Indian a chance in the race of civilized life, and the Indian is showing considerable aptitude. The Indians of the new state of Oklahoma are intelligent and wealthy, and they will be heard from in national affairs."

The talk about the necessity of primitive races dying out to give room for the advancing civilization, is nonsense. Every group of the human family is capable of developing along the lines of human progress. If they are not helped onward but left to be trampled down, this is due to the universal selfishness of those who should be leaders in the procession, and not destroyers of the weak. The Indians certainly are capable of civilization. There is no reason why they should not become both numerous and influential."

As an illustration of the possibilities of a resurrection of Indian civilization, it can be stated that at Spokane they have found that Indians make splendid actors. The Indian play, In-We-Ne-Ha, was put on the stage by Flatheads in their native tongue and the story made perfectly clear to an audience that could not understand a word. The papers say that the entire performance was as enjoyable as it was unique. The following account of this event, from a contemporary, may not be without interest:

"Garbed in blankets, moccasins, gorgeous feather head dresses, bead work ornaments and tinkling bells and with stage settings representing their camping grounds in the wilds of the forest, the Indians, numbering about 40, presented a picturesque and unique appearance. They indulged in no stage mannerisms, they did not seem to be playing for the applause of the audience, but they enacted the various scenes with an unaffected naturalness that gave to the production a thoroughly realistic effect."

"As the curtain rose the Indians appeared on the trail on their way to

their village, some riding ponies, others walking. The scene shifted to the village, where in front of a tepee, four or five bucks were engaged in a game of cards and others were moving around in Indian fashion. For several minutes not a word was said, and as the audience began to wonder when the real action was to begin a couple of Indians rushed in leading a cayuse, to the back of which Saw-To-Mo, a Blackfoot, was strapped. He was accused of being a spy and was condemned to be burned at the stake. As the match was applied, In-We-Ne-Ha, daughter of the Kootenai chief, cut his bonds and was wounded by the shots fired at the escaping Saw-To-Mo. In the next act, while the tribe was sleeping she released Saw-To-Mo, with whom she is in love, and they fled together."

"Succeeding scenes depicted a council of war, an attack on the Blackfoot stage, a battle between the Blackfoot and Kootenai tribes and a duel between the rivals for In-We-Ne-Ha's hand. Saw-To-Mo and In-Kam-Kee, in which the latter is appropriately slain and scalped."

The play, we are told, was written by Arthur Dexter, who spent the summer among the Indians teaching them how to render it on the stage. It is claimed that all the members of the cast memorized their parts with surprising facility, doing as well as any troupe of whites could have done."

POLITICAL SWINDLERS.

If a man came to your house for the purpose of asking for a donation for some alleged charitable object, would you open your heart and your purse to him, if you were convinced that he was trying to obtain your sympathy by false pretenses?

Suppose he were to appeal to your egotism, and, by eloquent verbiage, endeavor to convince you that your gift would be used entirely for the furtherance of your own material interests; would you respond to the call? Would not the nauseating hypocrisy of the rhetoric warn you against the solicitor, as a fraud?

Suppose he were to tell you a soul-stirring story about a poor, unfortunate, human being that was to be rescued by your generosity, and that of others; would you grant his request, if you happened to know that the alleged poor, unfortunate fellow-being referred to, either did not exist, or that the misery depicted was invented solely for the purpose of softening your feelings?

Suppose the fellow addressing you were known to you personally as a drunken, worthless sot, a character, like the Prodigal in the parable, wasting his substance in "riotous living," but unlike his prototype in the matter of repentance; would you trust him with a contribution for any worthy purpose?

No one would. Such a fellow would be turned out of every house. Even "E. Z. Marks" is not caught by undisguised frauds and pretenses. Some people are trapped when the disguise is very thin. Otherwise the occupation of the human beasts of prey would not be as permanent as it is. But none can be imposed upon, when the question is of dollars and cents, by persons known to be impostors.

When, however, the question is of the performance of civic duties, many citizens are less cautious. They display less common sense. Everywhere in the vast field of politics this fact finds illustration.

Sometimes men appeal to citizens for votes and give promises that everyone knows cannot be fulfilled. They promise overwhelming prosperity and immaculate honesty in every branch of government, and Millennial conditions generally, when their only object is to obtain votes and personal benefits. And to such hypocrites with oily tongues and slick phrases many throw their votes!

The rattlesnake is said to warn the unwary of its presence, by the noise it makes. The hypocritical promise-maker gives warning enough by his noisy tongue, but many do not heed it.

Sometimes solicitors for votes appeal to the citizen on the ground that they are heroes that have engaged in the work of rescue of poor sufferers from political and religious wrongs. The tales are known to be invented for the sake of effect. The alleged "tyrants" are known to be but windmills, and the exploits of chivalry are clearly only the yarns of the "champion village liar." Yet, some citizens give them the votes they ask for, as if a son of Ananias could be trusted in any public position of importance.

Still more strange! Some of those who solicit support are notorious characters that would not be left to themselves behind the counter of a country store, if they were covered with rags instead of costly broadcloth. They are known to be Prodigals in riotous living, but because they happen to have the means to cover themselves with expensive raiment, they are not ashamed of coming before the citizens and asking for their support, though they still carry with them the marks from the swine troughs. And they obtain a following, in spite of common sense.

They would be turned out, if they were regarded as swindlers. And that is what they are. Only they get at it somewhat different from the general brigand. They ask for votes first. These are easier to obtain than money. There are more "E. Z. Marks," politically considered. When they have the votes and the offices, their actual operations commence. The vote-getting was only preliminary.

"Listen to my tale of woe," Chief of Police.

Is Senator T. C. Platt in favor of a uniform divorce law?

Those wandering Utes will find sermons in Governor Brooks.

Mr. Hearst will hardly run ahead of his tick though he runs at the head of it.

The McWhiters will be real glad to see "Doctor" Donaldson. They never can forget him.

Is the quiet time that Governor Magoon is enjoying the traditional one that precedes the storm?

Alfred Austin says that poets are deteriorating. The poet laureate should not judge others by himself.

In Indiana it costs twenty-seven dollars to convert a sinner. In the days of yore it cost less to convert "blocks of five."

Dr. Forbes Winslow of London says

that the world is going insane. If people go all together what is the difference?

The London county council wants women made eligible to seats in it. This is a move in the right direction and deserves success.

"What San Francisco needs now is a civic earthquake," says the Los Angeles Times. All the signs point to an upheaval in the near future.

Voliva declares that the ambition of Mrs. Dowle led to the downfall of John Alexander Dowle. By this assertion Wilbur Glenn proves himself a true son of Adam.

Ex-Archbishop-General Wayne MacVeagh questions "whether any step has been so fruitful of advantage to the cause of honest politics as this action of the railroad companies in abolishing passes."

The French submarine boat Lutin made a trip to the bottom of the ocean and never came back. As the doctors would say, the operation was successful but the patient was not strong enough to stand it.

President Roosevelt's message of sympathy to Mrs. J. Addison Hayes on the death of her mother, Mrs. Jefferson Davis, was a graceful and a gracious thing. The distinguished lady had won the respect of the people of the whole country but in the southland she was loved and revered. She was a truly noble woman.

According to Prof. Albert Bushnell Hart of Harvard there is a difference between the native Yankee students and those who come from Canada in that the latter better preserve a tradition of reading, which most of the American young men have not acquired. This is probably true, rhodes scholars remark the same thing of the English students at Oxford. American students should acquire the habit without further delay, for the longer the delay the harder to acquire the habit.

ANOTHER "COSTLY TOY."

Philadelphia Record.
By the end of this month the battleship Connecticut will be ready to go into commission. It will take about seven hundred men to officer and man the monster. These marine fortresses are the costliest toys of the empire builders. From the time of their outfit until they go to the scrap heap they are a continuous source of heavy expenditure. If a warship remains serviceable for twenty-five years the fact is deemed remarkable. Suppose the hundred million invested within the iron walls of the Connecticut, whose support is a common burden, were instead employed for the next twenty-five years in profitable production on shore, what might they not add to the common wealth?

CHINESE GIRL STUDENTS.

South China Post.
Chinese girl students are no longer to be allowed to dress as they please. So the board of education has decreed. Such an announcement suggests an opening in China for a rational dress league. Little "lilies" accustomed to loose "panta," long jacket and waddy shoes are now, by order of that august body, the board of education, to don a "physical exercise" costume, after which they will appear in the classroom in suitable attire for ordinary school wear. The new rule may raise a smile, but along with the anti-foot binding crusade, which now receives official support, it points to the dawn of a new era for the benighted women of Cathay.

CIGARETTE SMOKING.

Medical Bulletin.
Cigarette smoking, at the best, is bad enough, but the extent to which it is indulged in today by the immature is deplorable to a very great degree. To begin with, the smoke of a cigarette to the uninitiated, offensive to the fullest extent; and to publish a statement of the harmful effects of tobacco through excessive cigarette smoking might do some good, but we doubt it. As long as the growing-up youngster sees grown men around him inhaling the festive weed, just so long will the youthful aspirant attempt to follow in the steps his forefathers trod.

COPPER KILLS GERMS.

Philadelphia Bulletin.
"Copper is a marvelous preventive of disease. If we returned to the old copper drinking vessels of our forefathers, typhoid epidemics would disappear." The speaker, a filtration expert, took a copper cent from his pocket. "Examine this under a microscope," he said, "and you will find it altogether free from disease germs. Examine gold and silver coins, and you will find them one wriggling and conspiring germ mass. Yet copper coins pass through dirtier hands than gold and silver ones—you'd think they'd be alive with micro-organisms. But no. Copper kills germs. Diphtheria and cholera cultures smeared on a copper cent die in less than two hours. "They have many cholera epidemics in China, but certain towns are always immune. These towns keep their drinking water in great copper vessels. Travelers have tried to buy these vessels, for they are beautiful, but the villagers will not sell them. They have a superstition that their health and welfare depend on their retention. I wish all superstitions were as true and salutary as that."

JUST FOR FUN.

A Rural Possibility.
"Marjorie was on a visit to her grand-parents on the farm, and her enjoyment of country life was somewhat marred by the apprehension of being horned by the cows. One day her mother asked her to run to the barn and call grandpa to dinner. She started, but spying a cow in the lot, one of the moosy kind, ran back, crying, 'Oh mamma, there's a cow out there!'"

After a glance out of the window at the meek-looking bovine, her mother said: "Why, Marjorie, that's a moosy cow. She can't harm you, for she hasn't any horns."

"But, mamma," exclaimed the child, "she might butt me with her pompadour!"—Harper's Weekly.

Time Will Show.

The Customer.—Do you think you can make a really good photograph of me?
The Artist.—Well, sir, I'm afraid I must answer you in the negative.—Pick-Me-Up.

The Business Whirl.

"Our imitation is really considerably better than the real thing."
"You don't say! Then hadn't we better begin cautioning the public to beware of the genuine?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Mrs. O'Flannigan (to husband, who has had india-rubber heels to his boots).—"Now, you sound just like a

policeman walking, for, bodad, I can't hear you at all!"—Punch.

"Did Spongers have any trouble establishing his identity when he was abroad?"

"None at all. He began borrowing money the first thing. They soon got to know him."—Detroit Free Press.

"Your flat, of course, has the customary spare-room that a great—"
"Yes, indeed; exceedingly."
"Exceedingly pardon! Exceedingly what?"

"Exceedingly spare-room."—Philadelphia Press.

"What a wonderful vocabulary the new minister has," said Mrs. Oldcastle.

"Yes," replied her hostess, "it's almost as big as Josiah's Uncle William's was, only his turned into a golf-tee, at last."—Chicago Record-Herald.

"Now that I have lost all my money," said the young man with a large, open-faced sigh, "I suppose I'll lose you, too."

"Yes," answered the beautiful girl, "you will. You know I always said I'd be as true as gold to you."—Chicago Daily News.

She—What, sleeping?
He—Excuse me, darling; but I began counting the minutes until I should hear the rustle of your tiny feet among the fallen leaves, and—
She—Well?

He—And, you know, counting all ways sends me to sleep.—Town and Country.

Schoolmaster.—You ask me if I love you? O, darling, when I had to punish a boy this afternoon I gave him your name to write out 500 times!—Fleming's Blatter.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The October 5th number of The North American Review is notable for the timeliness and variety of its contents. It opens with the third installment of Chapters from Mark Twain's Autobiography. Wayne Mac Veagh recounts the "Reforms Secured in Pennsylvania." George W. Scott discusses "International Law and the Drug Doctrine." Charles F. Beach, Jr., tells what has been recently done in the way of "Educational Reciprocity" between some of the great nations. W. D. Howells gives a description of "Oxford." A student of financial and industrial subjects, writing over the pseudonym "Scrutator," gives a very favorable idea of "Our Business Outlook." K. K. Kawakami gives an account of the "Awakening of China." T. Speed Mosby presents certain views as to the incidence of crime derived from an examination of the criminals confined in "America's Greatest Prison." In the literary department, Dr. Joseph S. Kennard's "Italian Romance Writers" is reviewed by F. Taber Cooper; Henry W. Nevins' "The Dawn in Russia by Abraham Cahan; George Santany's "History of English Prosody" by Brander Matthews; and "The Art of Flora Macleod" is considered by Lawrence Gilman. "The department of World-Politics contains communications from London and St. Petersburg; and among the topics dealt with in the Editor's Diary are "The Necessity of Woman Suffrage;" "England, the United States and Cuba;" "The Hardest Force in the Scales;" "Of Editors and Their Critics;" "Of Honesty in Advertising;" and "Conventional or Unconventional Morality."—Franklin Square, New York.

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